

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

1 February 2022

Zambian Court to Rule on 6 February 2023

Argonaut Resources NL (*Argonaut or the Company*) (ASX:ARE) announces that the Zambian High Court proceeded to hear a judicial review application by Argonaut's 90% held subsidiary, Mwombezhi Resources Ltd on 30 January 2023. The judge has adjourned the matter to Monday, 6 February 2023 for ruling.

A judicial review aimed at the prompt reinstatement of the Lumwana West licence in North-western Zambia to Argonaut's 90% held subsidiary, Mwombezhi Resources Ltd was filed on 12 October 2022.

Highlights

- In January 2022, Mwombezhi filed an appeal to the Zambian Minister for Mines and Mineral Development, Hon. Paul Kabuswe, MP, against the illegal grant of a new licence over the Lumwana West area.
- On 12 October 2022, Argonaut filed an application to the Zambian High Court for judicial review of the Minister's inordinate delay in deciding this appeal.
- The judicial review application seeks orders to have the appeal decided promptly.
- On 8 December 2022, the court granted Mwombezhi:
 - leave for judicial review; and
 - a *stay of execution* of the decision by the Zambian Government to:
 - cancel the Lumwana West licence; and
 - grant a new licence over the same area to a different entity¹.
- The judicial review was heard on 30 January 2023.
- The judge has adjourned the matter to Monday, 6 February 2023 for ruling.

Judicial Review

Argonaut's subsidiary, Mwombezhi, filed an application in the Zambian High Court for judicial review² of the Minister's apparent inaction in deciding an appeal dated January 2022.

The appeal of January 2022 is against the cancellation of large-scale exploration licence 22399-HQ-LEL, Lumwana West, and the hasty and illegal grant of a new licence over the same area.

The judicial review proceeded through the Zambian High Court, firstly via an order to extend the time available to Mwombezhi to apply for judicial review and secondly by the grant of leave for judicial review.

The court has further ordered that the grant of leave for judicial review operates as a *stay of execution* of the decisions by the Zambian Government to both cancel 22399-HQ-LEL, Lumwana West, and grant a new licence over the same area to a different entity.

¹ Signed court order dated 8 December 2022 and received by Argonaut on 14 December 2022.

² High Court for Zambia, Holden Registry, Lusaka, file number 2022/HP/1613.

The stay suspends the purported cancellation of the Lumwana west licence. The stay is in operation until the determination of the judicial review or further order of the court.

An officer of the Attorney General's chambers submitted that a senior legal official attempted to engage with the Minister with the aim of an out of court settlement. These attempts did not result in a settlement. Argonaut notes that no filings were made in response to the judicial review application and that the attendant officer of the AG's chambers put the matter in the hands of the court, save for a reference to Zambian case law regarding unopposed applications.

Argonaut notes that it has sworn and filed a substantial affidavit in the judicial review proceedings that contains relevant contextual materials for the benefit of the court.

Authorised for release by the Board of Argonaut Resources NL.

Lindsay Owler
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ARGONAUT RESOURCES NL